Living conditions of animals in zoological parks

†2782. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proper care is not taken regarding living conditions and food of animals in most of the zoological parks in the country, due to which their condition is pitiable;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any concrete steps to resolve this problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Evaluation of various zoos by the Central Zoo Authority reveal several inadequacies in housing, upkeep and health care of animals in various zoos.

(b) to (d) Steps taken by the Central Zoo Authority for improving the housing, upkeep and health care of animals are also follows:

(i) Hundred per cent financial assistance is extended for improvement of housing, upkeep and health care facilities.

(ii) Technical help is given for finalizing the collection plan, master plan, designing of enclosures etc.

(iii) Organizing trainings and workshops for upgrading the skills of zoo staff.

(iv) Coordination of breeding programmes for endangered species including exchange, loaning and pooling of breeding stock.

Wild Life Population in Ranthambore National Park and Sariska Tiger Reserve

2783. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently conducted census of wildlife, including tigers, at Ranthambore National Park and Sariska Tiger Reserve;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what are comparative figures;

(c) what is their trend; and

(d) what urgent steps are being taken to maintain their strength?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Census for Tiger in Ranthambore and Sariska Tiger Reserve was due in 2001, but the same could not be done due to early rains. The census figures for both the Reserve during 1995 and 1997 are as follows:

S. No.	Major Wildlife Species	Ranthambore Tiger Reserve		Sariska Tiger Reserve	
		1995	1997	1995	1997
1.	Tiger	38	32	25	24
2.	Leopard	63	79	46	49
3.	Sambar	3419	2939	4800	5600
4.	Chital	4849	4496	2900	2900
5.	Nilgai	2648	1946	4300	4780
6.	Wild Boar	1825	1936	2600	2900

(d) Studies and observation suggest that there is no declining trend in the population of wild animals including tigers in these reserves. The management and development works are being carried out regularly for the betterment of the parks.

Death of two lionesses in Gir Forest

2784. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether death of two lionesses outside the Gir Sanctuary in Gujarat was reported in June, 2001;

(b) if so, the causes of death enquired into; and

(c) the action proposed to develop a new habitat for lions, to ease congestion in the Gir Forest?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat has reported that two dead bodies of lionesses were found in the river bed of Drafad river during June, 2001. After postmortem the cause of death could not be ascertained due